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information systems personnel [>toc](#)
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Recent trends in information systems law

Authors

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[^ ABSTRACT](#)

Legal issues in the information systems area have been among the more active areas of the law. Even with this activity, legislation and the courts have lagged information technology. This

recent activity effects the information systems manager. This article examines recent information legal issues in the areas of employment and personnel, corporate liability, and copyright.

↑ REFERENCES

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⬆ **INDEX TERMS**

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↳ H.1 MODELS AND PRINCIPLES

↳ H.1.2 User/Machine Systems

↳ Subjects: Human factors

Additional Classification:

K. Computing Milieux

↳ K.4 COMPUTERS AND SOCIETY

↳ K.4.2 Social Issues

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↳ K.5 LEGAL ASPECTS OF COMPUTING

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↳ K.6 MANAGEMENT OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

↳ K.6.1 Project and People Management

↳ Subjects: Staffing

General Terms:

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Citation

ACM Transactions on Database Systems (TODS) [>archive](#)
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A Database Management System for the Federal Courts

Authors

Jack R. Buchanan
Richard D. Fennell


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[↑ ABSTRACT](#)

A judicial systems laboratory has been established and several large-scale information management systems projects have been undertaken within the Federal Judicial Center in Washington, D.C. The newness of the court application area, together with the experimental nature of the initial prototypes, required that the system building tools be as flexible and efficient as possible for effective software design and development. The size of the databases, the expected transaction volumes, and the long-term value of the court records required a data manipulation system capable of providing high performance and integrity. The resulting design criteria, the programming capabilities developed, and their use in system construction are described herein. This database programming facility has been especially designed as a technical management tool for the database administrator, while providing the applications programmer

with a flexible database software interface for high productivity. Specifically, a network-type database management system using SAIL as the data manipulation host language is described. Generic data manipulation verb formats using SAIL's macro facilities and dynamic data structuring facilities allowing in-core database representations have been developed to achieve a level of flexibility not usually attained in conventional database systems.

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Citation

Annual ACM Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval [>archive](#)

Proceedings of the 23rd annual international ACM SIGIR conference on Research and development in information retrieval [>toc](#)
2000 , Athens, Greece

Extracting sentence segments for text summarization: a machine learning approach

Authors

Wesley T. Chuang
Jihoon Yang

Sponsors

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SIGIR : ACM Special Interest Group on Information Retrieval


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 [ABSTRACT](#)

With the proliferation of the Internet and the huge amount of data it transfers, text summarization is becoming more important. We present an approach to the design of an automatic text summarizer that generates a summary by extracting sentence segments. First, sentences are broken into segments by special cue markers. Each segment is represented by a set of predefined features (e.g. location of the segment, average term frequencies of the words occurring in the segment, number of title words in the segment, and the like). Then a supervised learning algorithm is used to train the summarizer to extract *important* sentence segments, based on the feature vector. Results of experiments on U.S. patents indicate that the performance of the proposed approach compares very favorably with other approaches (including Microsoft Word summarizer) in terms of precision, recall, and classification accuracy.

↑ INDEX TERMS

Primary Classification:

H. Information Systems

↳ H.3 INFORMATION STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL

↳ H.3.1 Content Analysis and Indexing

↳ Subjects: Abstracting methods

Additional Classification:

I. Computing Methodologies

↳ I.2 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

↳ I.2.7 Natural Language Processing

↳ Subjects: Text analysis

General Terms:

Algorithms, Experimentation, Performance, Reliability, Theory

Keywords:

machine learning, sentence segment extraction, text summarization

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19. For discussion, see *Nimmer on Copyright*, Sec. 50; *Howell's Copyright Law*, p. 66.

Computer Patent Disclosures

Joseph P. Kates*

Suppose a potentially very valuable experimental multi-computer system is being designed by you and your group. You feel you have made at least a system invention. In your Company scientists and engineers are responsible for initiating invention disclosures.

What should your patent disclosure entail? How much time should you spend in preparing the disclosure? hours? days? weeks? Should you prepare a simplified system disclosure, or should you provide a detailed disclosure of the logical design? Will logic equations alone suffice? Manufacture and debugging may take a year or more.

In this case you should consult with your patent attorney as to patent protection for your invention. Such an invention very possibly will be involved in interference and/or litigation. Interference occurs when two parties have filed an application on the same invention, both claiming to be the first inventor. The first applicant who files a patent application is the senior party in the interference, and a later filing applicant has the burden of proving that he is the first inventor. The winner will be the first (1) to conceive and either diligently reduce to practice constructively by the filing of a patent application or actually by building a successfully operated and tested machine, or (2) to conceive first, and with or without diligence, to first reduce to practice. The difficulty of

proving actual reduction to practice is usually immense and is aggravated in a computer case. For example, consider the following situations.

1. Ninety percent of the elements are reduced to practice by those problems proved to be tested on the machine. There is no record that the remaining ten percent were tested. Elements of the counts contested in interference are among the ten percent—you lose.

2. A computer requires a high order of accuracy. Test results not conclusive of achieving such accuracy would negate actual reduction to practice.

3. The rules are stringent that the invention worked as intended to work in its practical contemplated use. For example, a binary counter which provided good waveforms on an oscilloscope was adjudged not reduced to practice since the record did not establish that the oscilloscope provided an actual load impedance [Elmore V. Schmitt, 278 F2d 510, 125 USPQ 653, May 10, 1960].

For these reasons I am convinced that long and short range savings will result by early filing before actual reduction to practice of applications which are as well disclosed as possible. I advise against spending much engineering time on the preliminary disclosure. Broadly outlined management proposals, block system drawings and available technical reports suffice for the early technical disclosure at this point. However, fill out the history form, where provided, carefully for potential legal necessity.

* Patent Attorney, Burroughs Corporation Paoli, Pa. This paper was presented at a panel discussion in the 1964 Spring Joint Computer Conference, Washington, D. C.

Although workable in a circuit case, I do not believe that logic equations alone can, in a systems case supply a complete disclosure. To expect the attorney to prepare the patent for an invention from logical equations alone would in most cases lead to loss of, and often would fail to disclose the invention. I am convinced that preparation of an adequate and operative disclosure is necessary. In a computer systems case it must be a cooperative endeavor between the scientists and the patent attorney.

A patent application generally contains an introduction, objects of the invention, prior art problems and disadvantages, advantages of your invention, identification of the drawing figures, then a detailed description by structure and operation of the drawings, claims and legal papers. In a computer application the operational description may also include programs, logic, mathematics, operation in executing exemplary instructions, subroutines, description of arithmetic unit operations and separate descriptions of units such as the processors.

What should you furnish your patent attorney? First, supply drawings. The essential drawings include system and subsystem block diagrams, pictorial views, schematics of those electrical and logical circuits resulting from substantial design problems, formats of commands, of program and of data words, functional diagrams of sequence of operations and carrying out of instructions, wiring diagrams of communications between and within the units and cabinets, special novel features and timing diagrams.

Err on the side of too much. Your attorney and you in conference can best weed out unnecessary drawings.

The description of the drawings can be a combination of oral discussions between the scientists and programmers involved and the patent attorney. One effective way is dictation on recording machines by the attorney in discussions with the cognizant scientists. Supplement the verbal material by seeing that your patent attorney is listed to receive technical and management reports, proposals and instruction books as these are produced. Usually material which the technical writer can use is also useful to the patent attorney.

The principal source of information, however, throughout preparation of a massive patent application, is you. You can best help by being available as needed by the attorney for continuous but intermittent instruction. In that regard, it is not necessary that the inventors do all the work. The names of persons cognizant with details and their specialties will be very helpful to your patent attorney to avoid loss of your time. In order for your patent lawyer to secure a valid and enforceable computer patent, the patent application he prepares and prosecutes for you must contain sufficient disclosure within this document to teach other computer scientists to practice the invention. Disclosure of all the technical details and of the circumstances of the invention will enable his advance preparation and planning to properly claim and plead your cause for your valid and enforceable patent.

Joint Inventorship of Computers

Gunter A. Hauptman*

The term *joint inventorship* asks but does not necessarily answer the question, "Who is the true inventor of a computer?" I will try to show how "wrong" inventors are joined, how such improper joinder can be avoided, and its dangers. While the law permits the addition or subtraction of improperly joined inventors, it does not permit the substitution of one set of inventors for another set of inventors. Thus, despite corrective weapons, there are some pitfalls which must be avoided.

As an introduction let us consider the development of a hypothetical computer to see how joint invention problems arise. Initially, some engineers get together and say, "Let's build a multiplying computer." One engineer, the mathematician of the group, blocks out the desired multiplication technique; it is new. Several other engineers design registers and adders which are based on well-known concepts; and still another man designs the controls for

permitting the registers and adders to interact in accordance with the mathematician's multiplication technique. All the engineers go to a patent attorney who, based on their work, drafts a patent application directed to the novel multiplying technique as executed by the old registers and adders under command of the novel controls. Assuming that the mathematician and controls designer are joint inventors, should the engineers who designed the registers and adders be included as joint inventors? The answer is probably no, but the answer would be a qualified yes if the registers and adders were novel—qualified because separate patent applications would probably be required for each device. What if the original case were filed with the mathematician and controls designer as inventors and it soon turned out that though the multiplication technique and controls were old, the adders were, after all, new? Can the originally named joint inventors be dropped and the engineer who designed the adders be added? Probably not!

Since in a real-life computer development group it is not possible to join everybody in every patent application

* Patent Staff Attorney, IBM Corporation, New York, N. Y. This paper was presented at a panel discussion in the 1964 Spring Joint Computer Conference, Washington, D. C.



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Computer patent disclosures

Author

Joseph P. Kates Burroughs Corporation, Paoli, PA


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[↑ ABSTRACT](#)

Suppose a potentially very valuable experimental multi-computer system is being designed by you and your group. You feel you have made at least a system invention. In your Company scientists and engineers are responsible for initiating invention disclosures.

[↑ INDEX TERMS](#)

Primary Classification:

K. Computing Milieux

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↳ K.5.1 Hardware/Software Protection

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Journal of the ACM (JACM) 48, 6

Paolo Liberatore

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Proceedings of the 1999 international symposium on Physical design

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Greg N. Frederickson

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Communications of the ACM 8, 2

Walter Gautschi